

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND
ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission convened in a regular session at 7:03 p.m. on Thursday, January 6, 2011 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Chim, Gobble, Griffiths, McCabe, Watson, and Chairperson Reilly.

Absent: Commissioner Cunningham.

Also Present: Deputy Community Development Director Cessna and Senior Environmental Quality Officer Duncan.

MOTION: Commissioner Gobble moved to grant Commissioner Cunningham an excused absence for the January 6, 2011 Commission meeting. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chairperson Reilly led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. POSTING OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Watson, seconded by Commissioner Gobble, moved to accept and file the report of the secretary on the posting of the agenda for this meeting; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Virginia Hilker, Calle de la Castellana, Redondo Beach, Environmental Priorities Network, expressed appreciation to Commissioner McCabe for his years of leadership, vision, encouragement, support, and actions while serving on the Commission.

Stan Myles, South Catalina Avenue, Redondo Beach, South Coast Air Quality Management District, stated that the proposal to host a lawn mower exchange is being reviewed by the Technology Advancement group and that the event would take place between March and May 2011. He distributed fliers for "Breathe Better...Live Better" on February 17, 2011 at the Knob Hill Community Center, Redondo Beach, and discussed AQMD's efforts to involve the senior community in air quality issues. He invited Commissioners to attend the December 7, 2011 Board meeting in Diamond Bar.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6A. MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 4, 2010

MOTION: Commissioner Gobble moved for the approval of the November 4, 2010 Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Griffiths seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Cunningham).

6B. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2, 2010

MOTION: Commissioner Watson moved for the approval of the December 2, 2010 Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Griffiths seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Cunningham).

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

7A. ELECTRIC CAR PRESENTATION

Deputy Director Cessna introduced the item, postponed from the December 2, 2010 Commission meeting, and welcomed David DeWitt, Principal Engineer, American Honda Research and Development in Torrance.

Mr. DeWitt provided a slide presentation on the battery electric vehicle and plug-in hybrid vehicle in Honda's Advance Technology Demonstration Program (ATDP). He showed American Honda's clean fleet that uses technology that promotes pollution reduction and reduces greenhouse gases. He described the Fit EV Concept that was first debuted at the Los Angeles Auto Show on November 17, 2010. He stated that education, infrastructure support, and permission and permitting, are instrumental in making these vehicles successful.

He provided background on how Torrance was selected as a participant along with Google and University of Stanford in the ATDP. He noted that Torrance is important in determining what a local government can do to help promote and sustain the program goals. He discussed the December 15, 2011 official launch, ceremonial key exchange, and EV test drive at the American Honda campus. He stated the current charging infrastructure in and around Torrance is out of date or does not work, but noted that current locations could be upgraded to meet new specifications.

Mr. DeWitt pointed out that Torrance has access to major freeways and has natural destinations for users to recharge electric vehicles. He stated that Honda is talking with City officials to determine convenient locations for charging stations and is encouraging EV infrastructure at the proposed transit center. He noted that the first year the ATDP would focus on installing and upgrading public chargers as well as public awareness education before real world usage is determined in the second year.

Chairperson Reilly suggested having EV displays at the Lifestyle wing at Del Amo Mall and Farmers' Market.

In response to Commissioner Gobble's inquiry, Mr. DeWitt stated that the Fit EV ranges from 70 to 100 miles and plug-in hybrids range from 300-400 miles.

Responding to Commissioner McCabe's inquiry about the future marketplace, Mr. DeWitt stated that Honda believes that hydrogen is the cleanest, overall solution for transportation but that the market will ultimately dictate which technology will survive.

A brief discussion centered on the need for pedestrian alerts because electric vehicles are so quiet.

Commissioner Gobble suggested arranging to have a presentation on the infrastructure side of what utility companies do.

Deputy Director Cessna stated that staff is looking at grant opportunities, surveying and identifying useful locations throughout the City for charging stations, and providing information for residents in the Building department.

7B. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

Deputy Director Cessna presented the draft Commission's Annual Report for July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, noting that suggested additions have been included.

MOTION: Commissioner Watson moved to approve the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission Annual Report for July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 as amended and to forward it to City Council. Commissioner Gobble seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Cunningham).

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

8A. Deputy Director Cessna provided an update on plans for the March 26, Environmental Fair at Madrona Marsh. She stated that invitations and applications would be sent out this week or the first part of next week. She discussed the possibility of holding the Fair every other year and blocking off half of the street to provide them with more space for exhibits.

9. ORAL COMMUNICATION

9A. Commissioners and staff expressed their appreciation to Commissioner McCabe and his family for his eight and a half years of dedicated service, leadership, and vision on the Commission and bid him a fond farewell.

Commissioner McCabe stated that his time on the Commission has been an incredibly rewarding experience and urged Commissioners to turn ideas that have been discussed at Commission meetings into action items.

9B. Chairperson Reilly relayed her cousin's information about composting at a financial institute in New York City.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:06 p.m., Commissioner Gobble moved to adjourn the meeting to February 3, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Reilly so ordered.

Approved as Submitted February 3, 2011 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
